

Claims

1. A data processing device, comprising
a transceiver; and
a processing unit coupled to the transceiver configured to define at
5 least one compressed image file in a definition file written in a markup language, to print document data into the compressed image file, and to transfer the definition file and the compressed image file with the transceiver to a printer capable of interpreting the definition file and printing the compressed image file, whereby the document data is printed.
- 10 2. The data processing device of claim 1, wherein the processing unit is further configured to include in the definition file a reference to the compressed image file.
3. The data processing device of claim 1, wherein the processing unit is further configured to include in the definition file information on the de-
15 composition of the document data into the compressed image files.
4. The data processing device of claim 1, wherein the processing unit is further configured to paginate the document data, to split each page of the paginated document data into bands having a predetermined width and height, and to print each band into the compressed image file.
- 20 5. The data processing device of claim 1, wherein the processing unit is further configured to print the document data into the compressed image file in a what-you-see-is-what-you-get or WYSIWYG fashion.
6. The data processing device of claim 5, wherein the processing unit is further configured to print the document data into the compressed image
25 file in two stages including the printing of the document data into a bit map file and converting the bit map file into the compressed image file.
7. The data processing device of claim 1, wherein the processing unit is further configured to delete the definition file after it has been transferred to the printer.
- 30 8. The data processing device of claim 1, wherein the processing unit is further configured to delete each compressed image file after it has been transferred to the printer.
9. The data processing device of claim 1, wherein the processing unit is further configured to divide the document data into compressed image
35 files not exceeding a predetermined size limit.

10. The data processing device of claim 1, wherein the processing unit is further configured to generate the compressed image file after the previous compressed image file has been transferred to the printer and deleted from the processing unit.

5 11. The data processing device of claim 1, wherein the processing unit is further configured to receive an image request from the printer via the transceiver and to transfer the compressed image file via the transceiver to the printer in response to the received image request.

12. The data processing device of claim 11, wherein the processing
10 unit is further configured to generate the compressed image file after the image request for it has been received.

13. A method for printing document data from a data processing device to a printer, comprising:

15 defining at least one compressed image file in a definition file written in a markup language;
 printing document data into the compressed image file; and
 transferring the definition file and the compressed image file to a printer capable of interpreting the definition file and printing the compressed image file, whereby the document data is printed.

20 14. The method of claim 13, wherein the method further comprises:
 including in the definition file a reference to the compressed image file.

15 15. The method of claim 13, wherein the method further comprises:
 including in the definition file information on the decomposition of
25 the document data into the compressed image files.

16. The method of claim 13, wherein the method further comprises:
 paginating the document data;
 splitting each page of the paginated document data into bands having a predetermined width and height; and
30 printing each band into the compressed image file.

17. The method of claim 13, wherein the method further comprises:
 printing the document data into the compressed image file in a what-you-see-is-what-you-get or WYSIWYG fashion.

18. The method of claim 13, wherein the method further comprises:

printing the document data into the compressed image file in two stages including the printing of the document data into a bit map file and converting the bit map file into the compressed image file.

5 19. The method of claim 13, wherein the method further comprises:
deleting the definition file after it has been transferred to the printer.

20. The method of claim 13, wherein the method further comprises:
deleting each compressed image file after it has been transferred to
the printer.

10 21. The method of claim 13, wherein the method further comprises:
dividing the document data into compressed image files not exceed-
ing a predetermined size limit.

22. The method of claim 13, wherein the method further comprises:
generating the compressed image file after the previous com-
pressed image file has been transferred to the printer and deleted from the
15 processing unit.

23. The method of claim 13, wherein the method further comprises:
receiving an image request from the printer; and
transferring the compressed image file to the printer in response to
the received image request.

20 24. The method of claim 23, wherein the method further comprises:
generating the compressed image file after the image request for it
has been received.

25 25. A computer program product encoding a computer program of
instructions for executing a computer process for printing document data from
a data processing device to a printer, the process comprising:

defining at least one compressed image file in a definition file written
in a markup language;

printing document data into the compressed image file; and

30 transferring the definition file and the compressed image file to a
printer capable of interpreting the definition file and printing the compressed
image file, whereby the document data is printed.

26. A data processing device, comprising

means for communicating with a printer;

35 means for defining at least one compressed image file in a definition
file written in a markup language;

means for printing document data into the compressed image file;
and

means for transferring the definition file and the compressed image
file with the means for communicating to a printer capable of interpreting the
5 definition file and printing the compressed image file, whereby the document
data is printed.